

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today announced four Milwaukee area community health centers will receive a total of over \$1.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants from the Department of Health and Human Services. The awards will give the local community health centers- Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee Health Services, Westside Healthcare Association and Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee- the ability to expand their services as well as create sustainable quality jobs.

“The continued resources the Recovery Act brings our community is having a tangible and substantive impact,” said Rep. Moore. “When organizations in our community are able to create jobs and provide quality services the true beneficiaries are the people and that’s what the Recovery Act is all about, helping the people.”

The Recovery Act funds were welcomed by all four community health care centers, all of whom have already identified how they intend to use the funds. The Westside Healthcare Association, in recognizing the high infant mortality rate in the African American community, intends to use the additional funds to hire a certified midwife and medical assistant for their Hillside health clinic. In addition, they will hire a full-time financial counselor who will help all Hillside patients identify and access financial assistance such as Medicare and Medicaid. And they will hire a full-time case manager who help all patients in-need access resources like rental assistance, food pantries, and other tools to combat other obstacles they may face.

“Our goal is to have a holistic approach to health care,” said Jenni Sevenich CEO of the Westside Health Association. “The additional funds we will receive will help us accomplish that goal as well as make sure our patients receive the quality care they need and deserve.”

Conversely, Health Care for the Homeless Milwaukee has indicated that they intend to use a portion of the funds to give subcontractors- already in their health care network- the ability to retain and hire staff while reaching an unprecedented number of new insured patients. The health care center will also hire a full-time nurse practitioner and case manager so they will have the ability to serve approximately 2,000 additional patients as well as an increasing number of new uninsured patients.

“We are going to use these funds to provide access to primary care for the uninsured,” said Lee Carroll Executive Director of Health Care for the Homeless Milwaukee. “Now more than ever we are seeing more and more people who never anticipated that they would ever end up on the street in need of our help. So many people are just one pay check from being homeless or in the process of facing foreclosure or eviction and these funds will give us an opportunity to provide some type of assistance.”

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center plans to use the funds to continue its mission is to provide high quality health care, health education and social services for low income Milwaukee residents free from linguistic, cultural or economic barriers. In 2008, they served 27,118 people including 4,652 total new patients. As the percentage of patients without health insurance continues to grow, they are now coping with providing care for a growing percentage of their patients who are uninsured- currently 36% of their caseload. Along with the \$143,000 award that Rep Moore succeeded in including in the omnibus budget bill, the funds from the

ARRA will support construction and remodeling costs for one-half of the first floor of the Chavez Health Center – located at 1032 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive. The total cost of this remodeling project is slightly more than \$1 million. The area to be remodeled currently has 10 exam rooms and a large area for storage of paper medical records – records the center must maintain, but can no longer access routinely. Many of the current exam rooms are very small – 8 x 8 feet and not uniformly designed.

As one Sixteenth Street physician John Carroll, MD noted, “Our patients often come in with family members. They just do not fit in those rooms. At times, I have to ask someone to move to the waiting room. I hate to do that.”

Sixteenth Street CHC’s newly remodeled area will have 16 uniformly sized and configured exam rooms (10 x 12 ft) – a net gain of 6, which will allow them to hire two new medical providers who will be able to see more than 2,500 new patients. Additional nursing, front desk and billing support staff will be hired to support this additional medical staff.

In order to receive funds the community health centers submitted plans explaining how Increased Demand for Services (IDS) funds would be used, including strategies to add new providers, expand hours of operations or expand services.

The IDS awards are the second set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 2, President Obama announced grants worth \$155 million to establish 126 new health centers. Those grants will provide access to health center care for 750,000 people in 39 states and two territories.

“The results of the Recovery Act are real and are affecting the lives of people in our community. The Recovery Act is creating quality sustainable jobs that will help people in need now and well in to the future,” said Congresswoman Gwen Moore.

Department of Health and Human Service American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awards:

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center: \$448,661
Milwaukee Health Services: \$331,491
Westside Healthcare Association: \$452,496
Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee: \$142,145

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